

M&G (Lux) Optimal Income Fund EUR Class A – Accumulation shares



Quarterly Fund Review as at 31 March 2024

Fund manager(s) – Richard Woolnough, Stefan Isaacs

Marketing Communication - for investment professionals only

Highlights

- It was a challenging quarter for fixed income investors as the market repriced the number of interest rate cuts expected this year.
- Our overweight duration position detracted from relative performance in January and February but was supportive of returns during March.
- Overall, we maintain a portfolio of high-quality assets with a long duration exposure as we anticipate that interest rates will decrease.

The main risks associated with this fund

For any past performance shown, please note that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

The value and income from the fund's assets will go down as well as up. This will cause the value of your investment to fall as well as rise. There is no guarantee that the fund will achieve its objective and you may get back less than you originally invested.

Investments in bonds are affected by interest rates, inflation and credit ratings. It is possible that bond issuers will not pay interest or return the capital. All of these events can reduce the value of bonds held by the fund.

High yield bonds usually carry greater risk that the bond issuers may not be able to pay interest or return the capital.

The fund may use derivatives to profit from an expected rise or fall in the value of an asset. Should the asset's value vary in an unexpected way, the fund will incur a loss. The fund's use of derivatives may be extensive and exceed the value of its assets (leverage). This has the effect of magnifying the size of losses and gains, resulting in greater fluctuations in the value of the fund.

Investing in emerging markets involves a greater risk of loss due to greater political, tax, economic, foreign exchange, liquidity and regulatory risks, among other factors. There may be difficulties in buying, selling, safekeeping or valuing investments in such countries.

The fund is exposed to different currencies. Derivatives are used to minimise, but may not always eliminate, the impact of movements in currency exchange rates.

Investing in this fund means acquiring units or shares in a fund, and not in a given underlying asset such as building or shares of a company, as these are only the underlying assets owned by the fund.

Further risk factors that apply to the fund can be found in the fund's Prospectus.

Things you should know

The fund allows for the extensive use of derivatives.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

Fund performance (10 years)

	3 months (%)	YTD to QTR end	YTD (%)	1 year (%)	3 years (%) p.a.	5 years (%) p.a.	10 years (%) p.a.
■ Euro A Accumulation	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%	7.1%	-1.3%	0.5%	1.3%
■ Benchmark	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	5.4%	-2.1%	0.0%	-
■ Sector	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	6.6%	-0.3%	1.0%	1.2%
■ Quartile ranking	4	4	4	2	4	3	3

Single year performance (10 years)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
■ Euro A Accumulation	10.2%	-12.3%	1.2%	1.4%	6.8%	-4.0%	4.3%	7.0%	-1.6%	4.7%
■ Benchmark	7.3%	-14.1%	-0.9%	4.9%	7.8%	-	-	-	-	-
■ Sector	6.3%	-10.9%	3.9%	1.5%	7.5%	-4.9%	2.1%	1.9%	0.8%	5.3%
■ Quartile ranking	1	3	4	3	3	2	1	1	4	3

Benchmark= 1/3 Bloomberg Global Agg Corporate Index EUR Hedged, 1/3 Bloomberg Global High Yield Index EUR Hedged, 1/3 Bloomberg Global Treasury Index EUR Hedged

Sector= Morningstar EUR Cautious Allocation - Global sector

Benchmark: Until 24 August 2021 the name of the benchmark was 1/3 Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Corporate Index EUR Hedged, 1/3 Bloomberg Barclays Global High Yield Index EUR Hedged, 1/3 Bloomberg Barclays Global Treasury Index EUR Hedged.

The benchmark is a comparator against which the fund's performance can be measured. The composite index has been chosen as the fund's benchmark as it best reflects the scope of the fund's investment policy. The benchmark is used solely to measure the fund's performance and does not constrain the fund's portfolio construction.

The fund is actively managed. The investment manager has complete freedom in choosing which investments to buy, hold and sell in the fund. The fund's holdings may deviate significantly from the benchmark's constituents. The benchmark is not an ESG benchmark and is not consistent with the ESG Criteria.

Fund performance prior to 7 September 2018 is that of the EUR Class A-H Accumulation of the M&G Optimal Income Fund (a UK-authorized OEIC), which merged into this fund on 8 March 2019. Tax rates and charges may differ. The composite index was introduced as the fund's benchmark on 7 September 2018.

Source: Morningstar, Inc and M&G, as at 31 March 2024. Returns are calculated on a price to price basis with income reinvested. Benchmark returns stated in EUR terms.

Performance © 2024 Morningstar Inc., All Rights Reserved. The information contained within: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information.

Asset breakdown (%)

	Fund	Short	Long	Net
Government bonds	39.4	-1.9	0.0	37.5
Investment grade corporate bonds	39.6	0.0	0.0	39.6
Fixed rate	39.6	0.0	0.0	39.6
Floating rate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Index linked	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Credit Default Swaps & Indices	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
High yield corporate bonds	6.8	0.0	13.4	20.2
Fixed rate	5.8	0.0	0.0	5.8
Floating rate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Index linked	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Credit Default Swaps & Indices	1.0	0.0	13.4	14.4
Securitised	6.3	0.0	0.0	6.3
Equities	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash	7.5	0.0	0.0	7.5

Credit rating breakdown (%)

	Physical	Short (via CDS)	Long (via CDS)	Net
AAA	4.2	0.0	0.0	4.2
AA	38.2	0.0	0.0	38.2
A	9.6	0.0	0.0	9.6
BBB	31.9	0.0	0.0	31.9
BB	5.6	-1.9	6.5	10.2
B	2.1	0.0	7.0	9.1
CCC	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5
CC	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
C	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
D	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
No rating	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3
Cash	7.5	0.0	0.0	7.5

Country breakdown (%)

	Physical	Short (via CDS)	Long (via CDS)	Net
US	27.5	0.0	0.0	27.5
UK	25.1	0.0	0.0	25.1
France	11.3	0.0	0.0	11.3
Italy	4.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
Spain	3.2	0.0	0.0	3.2
Germany	2.8	0.0	0.0	2.8
Netherlands	1.9	0.0	0.0	1.9
Australia	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.8
Other	13.8	-1.9	0.0	11.9
High Yield indices	1.0	0.0	13.4	14.4
Cash	7.5	0.0	0.0	7.5

Currency breakdown (%)

	Fund
Euro	99.7
US dollar	0.2
British pound	0.2
New Zealand dollar	0.0
Australian dollar	0.0
South African rand	0.0
Hong Kong dollar	0.0
Swiss franc	0.0
Singapore dollar	0.0

Maturity breakdown (%)

	Physical
0 - 1 years	0.2
1 - 3 years	3.9
3 - 5 years	16.2
5 - 7 years	21.4
7 - 10 years	16.3
10 - 15 years	8.2
15+ years	25.9
Cash	7.5
Other	0.4

Industry breakdown (%)

	Physical	Short (via CDS)	Long (via CDS)	Net
Sovereign	35.7	0.0	0.0	35.7
Banking	17.2	0.0	0.0	17.2
Insurance	4.7	0.0	0.0	4.7
Utility	4.6	0.0	0.0	4.6
Covered Bonds	3.8	0.0	0.0	3.8
Foreign Sovereign	3.7	-1.9	0.0	1.8
Financial services	2.3	0.0	0.0	2.3
Telecommunications	2.2	0.0	0.0	2.2
Energy	2.2	0.0	0.0	2.2
Asset backed	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Technology & electronics	1.5	0.0	0.0	1.5
Real Estate	1.4	0.0	0.0	1.4
Media	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.3
Capital goods	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.3
Transportation	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.1
Consumer goods	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Supranational	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Agency	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.8
Leisure	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.7
Basic industry	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.6
Commercial Mortgage Backed	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.6
Retail	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5
Automotive	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5
Healthcare	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4
Equity	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3
Services	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Futures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
High Yield indices	1.0	0.0	13.4	14.4
Cash	7.5	0.0	0.0	7.5

Largest issuers (excluding government bonds and CDS indices, %)

	Fund
Electricite de France	1.4
JP Morgan	1.3
European Union	1.0
Morgan Stanley	1.0
Apple	1.0
Wells Fargo & Company	1.0
BNP Paribas	0.9
Banco Santander	0.9
Lloyds Banking Group	0.9
Toronto-Dominion Bank	0.9

Duration by currency and asset class (years)

	Fund	Futures	Swaps	Net
Euro	2.4	-0.4	-0.5	1.6
British pound	3.1	0.0	-1.4	1.7
US dollar	2.5	1.5	-0.2	3.8
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	8.0	1.1	-2.0	7.1

Market Review

The rally in bond markets at the end of last year faded in the first quarter as investors pushed back their timing for potential interest rate cuts by central banks. This was caused by stickier US inflation and resilient economic performance. Bond yields rose in January and February before recovering somewhat in March, when the US Federal Reserve confirmed that it expected to cut interest rates three times this year. The 10-year US Treasury yield ended the period at 4.2%, up from 3.9% in the previous quarter. The prices of 10-year German bunds and UK gilts fell 1.4% and 1.7%, respectively.

Corporate bonds fared slightly better, however. Corporate bond issuance was notable, with \$606 billion worth of US dollar bonds issued during the first quarter. This was the highest total since 1990. Within credit, high yield outperformed investment grade thanks to its lower interest rate sensitivity and easier financial conditions.

Performance, portfolio activity and positioning

The fund's overweight duration positioning was the key driver of relative performance this quarter (duration is a measure of a bond fund's sensitivity to interest rates). This represented our main active bet and was a drag on returns in both January and February. However, this position was supportive of performance in March and our exposure to UK government bonds (gilts) within duration proved particularly beneficial, as gilts experienced a solid rally during the month.

We maintained our long duration positioning in anticipation of a lower inflation environment and slow, but steady economic growth. We believe that in the current market environment, duration offers an attractive risk-reward profile.

Corporate bonds exposure supported performance this quarter due to tighter credit spreads. With spreads tightening, we reduced credit risk, moving some high yield exposure into investment grade. Early in the quarter, we closed some short credit default swap positions and sold bonds where spreads looked historically tight, including an AT&T hybrid, an ultra-long-dated EDF bond and a USD bond from Deutsche Telekom.

We maintain limited equity exposure, having added some good-value names in December last year.

Outlook

Overall, we maintain a portfolio of high-quality assets with a long duration exposure as we anticipate that rates will decrease in response to a lower inflation environment and slow but positive economic growth. The downside risk of higher rates appears limited, as central banks have already implemented significant tightening measures and are unlikely to raise rates much further from current levels. On the other hand, if inflation and growth unexpectedly fall short, there is significant potential for rates to decrease, which would benefit the portfolio, in our view.

The macroeconomic environment remains supportive for investment grade corporate bonds, in our opinion. Inflationary pressures are slowly easing while economies are growing, albeit at a slower pace. Yields remain historically high, and rate cuts are now expected in 2024, which should be supportive for fixed income investments in general. While spreads may not appear historically attractive, the positive macroeconomic environment makes this asset class particularly attractive for investors.

In high yield, spread levels remain unexciting, but all-in yields are still attractive, with scope for absolute returns and carry. With moderate rate cuts, contained spreads, and a mild default environment, the asset class could still deliver high single-digit returns over the next 12 months.

Approach to responsible investment

	Yes	No	N/A
ESG integration	✓		
Additional ESG specifications	✓		
Exclusions	✓		
Cluster munitions & anti personnel landmines	✓		
Other exclusions or restrictions	✓		
Voting	✓		
Engagement	✓		

Please see glossary for further explanation of these terms.

Climate metrics

	Weighted Average Carbon Intensity	Coverage by portfolio weight (%)
Euro A Accumulation	65.72	88.75%
Benchmark	243.15	84.96%

Source: MSCI

Exposure to ESG Bonds

	Exposure (%)
Fund	3.5

More sustainable, better run and less harmful businesses - MSCI Analysis

	Environmental score	Social score	Governance score	Overall score	Overall Rating	MSCI coverage (%)
Fund	7.0	6.0	6.3	6.7	A	99.4
Benchmark	6.2	5.8	6.0	6.0	A	94.1

ESG Standard Glossary

Additional ESG specifications: In the context of M&G, these are funds managed with an explicit ESG objective, outcome or in accordance with specific ESG criteria, and will have a number of minimum exclusions in place.

Engagement: Interaction with company management on various financial and non-financial, including ESG, issues. Engagement allows investors to better understand how a company is undertaking its operations and how it is interacting with its stakeholders, as well as advising on and influencing company behaviour and disclosures where appropriate.

ESG integration: Describes the explicit and systematic inclusion of Environmental, Social and Governance factors in investment analysis and investment decisions. It underpins a responsible investment approach, and allows investors to better manage risk and generate sustainable, long-term returns.

Exclusions: The exclusion or restriction of investments based on the sector in which they operate, the products or services they provide or for other specific criteria, i.e. they are deemed to be in breach of the United Nations Global Compact principles on human rights, labour the environment and anti-corruption.

Voting: As the partial owners of a company, shareholders have the right to vote on resolutions put forward at a company's annual general meeting. These resolutions include the re-election of directors, executive remuneration and business strategy, among others, and may include resolutions put forward by shareholders.

Explanation of our climate metrics

The Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) is the metric used to report our funds' carbon emissions. It is a measure of how much CO2 is being emitted per US\$ million of sales by each company that the fund invests in. This can be used to determine the likely effect a company is having on the environment. It can also help to compare the impact different companies have on the environment, and to compare companies against the broad market or the financial benchmark for the fund. However, this metric does not take into account the difference in carbon characteristics among sectors.

The WACI metric is one of many greenhouse gas emissions data points, each offering a different aspect of analysis on climate impact. M&G have selected this metric as it is applicable to multi-asset, equity and fixed income funds and it is aligned to the recommendations from the Taskforce for Climate Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). It has also been chosen to align with M&G's groupwide target of transparency when it comes to the disclosure of climate emissions.

At M&G we currently use MSCI as our main third-party data provider for carbon intensity data as we consider its coverage to be the broadest of the current providers. As with any mass data collection, there are methodology limitations; this also applies to MSCI. We make every effort to check its data and are currently building our own tools which will use a variety of data sources to gather and map the carbon emissions of our funds.

For the avoidance of doubt, this fund is not managed to a carbon emission objective and, the benchmark WACI (should funds have a benchmark) has been included for information purposes only.

Explanation of other sustainability indicators

More sustainable, better run and less harmful businesses – MSCI Analysis

The 'MSCI analysis' table shows the weighted average ESG score of the portfolio using MSCI, compared to either the fund's benchmark or to the named index, as indicated in the fund's Prospectus.

The 'Exposure to ESG bonds' table shows the percentage of the portfolio invested in ESG bonds, such as green bonds, social bonds, transition bonds, sustainability bonds or sustainability linked bonds.

Fund description

The fund aims to provide a combination of capital growth and income to deliver a return based on exposure to optimal income streams in investment markets, while applying environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria. It seeks to make these investments using an exclusionary approach, as described in the prospectus. Typically, at least 50% of the portfolio is invested in a broad range of fixed income securities of any credit quality and from any country, including emerging markets, and denominated in any currency. The fund manager selects investments wherever he sees the greatest opportunities, based on his assessment of a combination of macroeconomic, asset, sector and stock-level factors. The manager may also hold up to 20% of the portfolio in company shares when he believes they offer better value than bonds. The fund's recommended holding period is five years. In normal market conditions, the fund's expected average leverage – how much it can increase its investment position by borrowing money or using derivatives – is 200% of its net asset value.

Important information

With effect from November 2023, we are reporting using our internal accounting book of record (ABOR) moving away from the investment book of record (IBOR) used for reporting up to October 2023.

On 8 March 2019 the non-sterling assets of the M&G Optimal Income Fund, a UK-authorised OEIC which launched on 8 December 2006, merged into the M&G (Lux) Optimal Income Fund, a Luxembourg-authorised SICAV, which launched on 5 September 2018. The SICAV is run by the same fund manager, applying the same investment strategy. as the OEIC.

The way we report our FRN's has changed to categorise the coupon more accurately, which may result in changes to the percentage allocation.

The M&G (Lux) Optimal Income Fund is a sub-fund of M&G (Lux) Investment Funds 1.

SFDR Article Classification: Article 8 fund. The decision to invest in this fund should be based on all objectives and characteristics and not solely its non-financial objectives and characteristics.

For Investment Professionals, Institutional Investors, Accredited Investors and Professional Investors only. Not for onward distribution. No other persons should rely on any information contained within. In Hong Kong, this financial promotion is issued by M&G Investments (Hong Kong) Limited. Office: Unit 1002, LHT Tower, 31 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong; in Singapore by M&G Investments (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. (Co. Reg. No. 201131425R), regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore; and in Taiwan by M&G International Investments S.A. Registered Office: 16, boulevard Royal, L-2449, Luxembourg.

For Hong Kong only: The contents of this document have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong. You are advised to exercise caution in relation to the offer of any funds mentioned in it. If you are in any doubt about any of the contents of this document, you should obtain independent professional advice. Shares, units or other interests in the funds mentioned in this document may only be offered or sold in Hong Kong to persons who are "professional investors" as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance ("Ordinance") and any rules made under the Ordinance – or in circumstances which are permitted under the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance. In addition, distribution of this document in Hong Kong is restricted. It may not be issued or possessed for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, and shares, units or other interests in the funds mentioned may not be disposed of to any person unless such person is a "professional investor" as defined in the Ordinance and any rules made under the Ordinance or as otherwise may be permitted under Hong Kong law.

For Singapore only: For "accredited investors" and "institutional investors" as defined under the Securities and Futures Act (Cap. 289) of Singapore ("SFA") only. This document forms part of, and should be read in conjunction with, the Information Memorandum of the Fund and other communications permitted for offers made in reliance of prospectus exemptions under the SFA. All forms of investments carry risks. Such investments may not be suitable for everyone.

For Taiwan only: The financial product(s) offered herein has not been reviewed or approved by the competent authorities and is not subject to any filing or reporting requirement. The financial product(s) offered herein is only permitted to be recommended or introduced to or purchased by customers of an offshore banking unit of a bank ("OBU")/offshore securities unit of a securities firm ("OSU") which customers reside outside the R.O.C. Customers of an OBU/OSU are not eligible to use the financial consumer dispute resolution mechanism under the Financial Consumer Protection Law. This product(s) may be made available for purchase by Taiwan OBUs/OSUs acting on behalf of non-Taiwan customers of such units but may not otherwise be offered or sold in Taiwan.

M&G Investments (Hong Kong) Limited, M&G International Investments S.A., M&G Investments (Singapore) Pte. Ltd and the funds referred to in this document may not be authorised, recognised or regulated by the local regulator in your jurisdiction. This information is not an offer or solicitation of an offer for the purchase or sale of investment shares in one of the funds referred to herein.

Contact M&G

Asia / Global Banks

www.mandg.com/investments/professional-investor/en-sg

www.mandg.com/investments/professional-investor/en-hk

Glossary

This glossary provides an explanation of terms used in this factsheet and in our literature.

Accumulation shares: A type of share where distributions are automatically reinvested and reflected in the value of the shares.

Asset allocation: Allocating a portfolio's assets according to risk tolerance and investment goals.

Asset-backed securities: Bonds (fixed income securities) backed by assets that produce cashflows, such as mortgage loans, credit card receivables and auto loans.

Benchmark (Constraint): The portfolio must replicate the securities contained in the benchmark and their weights. The benchmark can be an index or a sector. Depending on the fund's mandate, the managers can replicate the positions directly or via derivatives, which are instruments whose value is derived from that of an underlying security or pool of securities.

Benchmark (Target): A benchmark, such as an index or sector, which the fund managers aim to match or exceed. The managers have freedom in choosing the securities and strategy by which they do so.

Benchmark: Measure, such as an index or sector, against which a portfolio's performance is judged.

Benchmark (Comparator): The fund managers choose the benchmark, which may be an index or a sector, as a comparator for the fund's performance, but they do not have to replicate its composition. The benchmark is not used for any other purpose, such as, for example, to serve as a reference when setting performance fees.

Bond: A loan in the form of a security, usually issued by a government or company. It normally pays a fixed rate of interest (also known as a coupon) over a given time period, at the end of which the initial amount borrowed is repaid.

Cash equivalents: Deposits or investments with similar characteristics to cash.

Consumer prices index (CPI): An index used to measure inflation, or the rate at which prices for a basket of goods and services bought by households change.

The contents of the basket are meant to be representative of products and services consumers typically spend money on, and are updated regularly.

Convertible bonds: Fixed income securities (bonds) that can be exchanged for predetermined amounts of company shares at certain times during their life.

Corporate bonds: Fixed income securities issued by a company. They are also known as bonds and can offer higher interest payments than bonds issued by governments as they are often considered more risky. Also referred to by investors as "credit."

Coupon: The interest paid by the government or company that has raised a loan by selling bonds. It is usually a fixed amount, calculated as a percentage of the total loan and paid out at regular intervals.

Credit default swap (CDS): An insurance-like contract that allows an investor to transfer the default risk of a bond to another investor. The buyer of the CDS pays regular premiums to the seller, who has to reimburse the buyer in the event of the underlying bond defaulting. A CDS is a type of derivative – a financial instrument whose value and price is dependent on the underlying asset.

Credit rating agency: A company that analyses the financial strength of issuers of fixed income securities (bonds) and attaches a rating to their debt. Examples include Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch.

Derivatives: Financial instruments whose value and price depend on one or more underlying assets. Derivatives can be used to gain exposure to, or to help protect against, expected changes in the value of the underlying investments. Derivatives may be traded on a regulated exchange or directly between two parties (over the counter).

Distribution yield: The amount that is expected to be distributed by the fund over the next 12 months expressed as a percentage of the share price as at a certain date. It is based on the expected gross income from the current portfolio calculated in accordance with the fund's distribution policies less the ongoing charges where they are deducted from income.

Dividend yield: Annual income distributed by a company as a percentage of its share price as at a certain date.

Duration: A measure of the sensitivity of a fixed income security (bond) or bond fund to changes in interest rates. The longer a bond or bond fund's duration, the more sensitive it is to interest rate movements.

Emerging economy or market: Country in the process of catching up with developed economies, with rapid growth and increasing industrialisation. Investments in emerging markets are generally considered to be riskier than those in developed markets.

Equities: Shares of ownership in a company. They offer investors participation in the company's potential profits, but also the risk of losing all their investment if the company goes bankrupt.

Ex-dividend, ex-distribution or xd date: The date on which declared distributions officially belong to underlying investors. On the XD date, the stock's price usually falls by the amount of the dividend, reflecting the payout.

Exposure: The proportion of a fund invested in a particular share/fixed income security/index, sector/region, usually expressed as a percentage of the overall fund.

Fixed income security: A loan in the form of a security, usually issued by a government or company, which normally pays a fixed rate of interest over a given time period, at the end of which the initial amount borrowed is repaid. Also referred to as a bond.

Floating rate notes (FRNs): Securities whose interest (income) payments are periodically adjusted depending on the change in a reference interest rate.

Gilts: Fixed income securities issued by the UK government. They are called gilts because they used to be issued on gilt-edged paper.

Government bonds: Loans issued in the form of fixed income securities by governments. They normally pay a fixed rate of interest over a given time period,

at the end of which the initial investment is repaid.

Hard currency (bonds): Fixed income securities (bonds) denominated in a highly traded, relatively stable international currency, rather than in the bond issuer's local currency. Bonds issued in a more stable hard currency, such as the US dollar, can be more attractive to investors where there are concerns that the local currency could lose value over time, eroding the value of bonds and their income.

Hedging: A method of reducing unnecessary or unintended risk.

High yield bonds: Loans taken out in the form of fixed income securities issued by companies with a low credit rating from a recognised credit rating agency. They are considered to be at higher risk of default than better-quality, higher-rated fixed income securities, but they have the potential for higher rewards. Default means that a bond issuer is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial amount borrowed at the end of a security's life.

Historic yield: The historic yield reflects distributions declared over the past 12 months as a percentage of the share price as at the date shown.

Income shares: A type of share where distributions (also called dividends) are paid out as cash on the payment date.

Index-linked bonds: Fixed income securities where both the value of the loan and the interest payments are adjusted in line with inflation over the life of the security. Also referred to as inflation-linked bonds.

Investment association (IA): The UK trade body that represents fund managers. It works with investment managers, liaising with government on matters of taxation and regulation, and also aims to help investors understand the industry and the investment options available to them.

Investment grade bonds: Fixed income securities issued by a government or company with a medium or high credit rating from a recognised credit rating agency. They are considered to be at lower risk of default than those issued by issuers with lower credit ratings. Default means that a borrower is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial investment amount at the end of a security's life.

Leverage: When referring to a company, leverage is the level of a company's debt in relation to its assets. A company with significantly more debt than capital is considered to be leveraged. It can also refer to a fund that borrows money or uses derivatives to magnify an investment position.

Local currency bonds: Bonds denominated in the currency of the issuer's country, rather than in a highly traded international 'hard' currency, such as the US dollar.

The value of local currency bonds tends to fluctuate more than that of bonds issued in a hard currency, as these currencies tend to be less stable.

Long position (exposure): Holding a security in the expectation that its value will rise.

Maturity: The length of time until the initial amount invested in a fixed income security is due to be repaid to the holder of the security.

Modified duration: A measure of the sensitivity of a bond, or bond fund, to changes in interest rates, expressed in years. The longer a bond or bond fund's duration, the more sensitive it is to interest rate movements.

Near cash: Deposits or investments with similar characteristics to cash.

Net asset value (NAV): The current value of the fund's assets minus its liabilities.

Ongoing charge figure: The ongoing charge figure represents the operating costs investors can reasonably expect to pay under normal circumstances.

Open-ended investment company (OEIC): A type of managed fund whose value is directly linked to the value of the fund's underlying investments. The fund creates or cancels shares depending on whether investors want to redeem or purchase them.

Options: Financial contracts that offer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an asset at a given price on or before a given date in the future.

Payment date: The date on which distributions will be paid by the fund to investors, usually the last business day of the month.

Physical assets: An item of value that has tangible existence; for example cash, equipment, inventory or real estate. Physical assets can also refer to securities, such as company shares or fixed income securities.

Property expense ratio: Property expenses are the operating expenses that relate to the management of the property assets in the portfolio. These include: insurance and rates, rent review and lease renewal costs and maintenance and repairs, but not improvements. They depend on the level of activity taking place within the fund. The Property Expense Ratio is the ratio of property expenses to the fund's net asset value.

Retail prices index (RPI): A UK inflation index that measures the rate of change of prices for a basket of goods and services in the UK, including mortgage payments and council tax.

Share class hedging: Activities undertaken in respect of hedged shares to mitigate the impact on performance of exchange rate movements between the fund's currency exposure and the investor's chosen currency.

Share class: Type of fund shares held by investors in a fund (share classes differ by levels of charge and/or by other features such as hedging against currency risk). Each M&G fund has different share classes, such as A, R and I. Each has a different level of charges and minimum investment. Details on charges and minimum investments can be found in the fund's Prospectus.

Share: An ownership stake in a company, usually in the form of a security. Also called equity. Shares offer investors participation in the company's potential profits, but also the risk of losing all their investment if the company goes bankrupt.

Short position (exposure): A way for an investor to express their view that the market might fall in value.

SICAV: In French, it stands for société d'investissement à capital variable. It is the western European version of an open-ended collective investment fund, much like

an OEIC. Common in Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy and France, and regulated by regulators in the European Union.

Swap: A swap is a derivative contract where two parties agree to exchange separate streams of cashflows. A common type of swap is an interest rate swap, where one party swaps cashflows based on variable interest rates for those based on a fixed interest rate, to hedge against interest rate risk.

UCITS: Stands for Undertakings for Collective Investments in Transferable Securities. This is the European regulatory framework for an investment vehicle that can be marketed across the European Union and is designed to enhance the single market in financial assets while maintaining high levels of investor protection.

Underlying yield: The amount that is expected to be earned by the fund over the next 12 months expressed as a percentage of the share price as at a certain date. It is based on the expected gross income from the current portfolio calculated in accordance with the fund's accounting policies less all ongoing charges.

Unit trust: A type of managed fund whose value is directly linked to the value of the fund's underlying investments and which is structured as a trust, rather than as a company.

United Nations Global Compact: A United Nations initiative to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies and to report on their implementation.

Valuation: The worth of an asset or company, based on the present value of the cashflows it will generate.

Yield: This refers to either the interest received from a fixed income security or to the dividends received from a share. It is usually expressed as a percentage based on the investment's costs, its current market value or its face value. Dividends represent a share in the profits of a company and are paid out to the company's shareholders at set times of the year.